

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 28 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

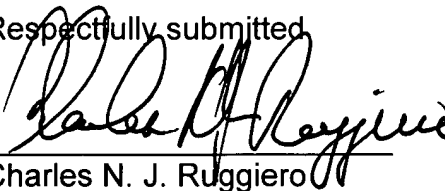
The specification has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(a) and to include an appropriate priority claim. The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to meet the requirements of MPEP 608.01(b).

The claims have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, claims 1 through 28 have been amended to include the transitional phrase "comprising" and "wherein" as appropriate, to correct translation errors, to provide antecedent basis to all claim elements, and to provide proper verb tense for all method claims. These claim amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

June 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N. J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10<sup>th</sup> floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: (203) 327-4500

Fax: (203) 327-6401